

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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5 1. A device to descramble a packetized digital data stream,
comprising:
 a receiver to receive a packet of a scrambled packetized
digital data stream, said packet including a header portion and a data
payload, and said data payload including a scrambled portion and a clear,
unscrambled portion; and
10 a descrambler to descramble said scrambled portion of said
data payload of said packet.

15 2. The device to descramble a packetized digital data
stream according to claim 1, wherein:
 said scrambled portion of said data payload is at a location
within said payload portion of said packet such that said scrambled
portion is preceded and succeeded by unscrambled portions within said
packet.

20 3. The device to descramble a packetized digital data
stream according to claim 1, wherein:
 said digital data stream comprises an MPEG-2 digital data
stream.

25 4. The device to descramble a packetized digital data
stream according to claim 1, wherein:
 said packet contains compressed digital data.

5. The device to descramble a packetized digital data stream according to claim 4, wherein:

 said compressed digital data includes a video signal.

5 6. The device to descramble a packetized digital data stream according to claim 4, wherein:

 said compressed digital data includes an audio signal.

10 7. The device to descramble a packetized digital data stream according to claim 4, wherein:

 said compressed digital data includes a video signal and an audio signal.

15 8. A method of scrambling a packetized digital data stream, comprising:

 producing a data packet stream comprising a plurality of data packets; and

20 scrambling a first portion of a data payload of at least some of said plurality of data packets within said data packet stream without scrambling a header of said at least some of said plurality of data packets.

9. The method of scrambling a packetized digital data stream according to claim 8, wherein:

25 said scrambling leaves a second portion of said data payload of each of said at least some of said plurality of data packets unscrambled.

10. A method of scrambling a packetized digital data stream, comprising:

producing a data packet stream comprising a plurality of data packets; and

5 scrambling every nth one of said plurality of data packets, where n is an integer greater than 1, leaving remaining ones of said plurality of data packets unscrambled.

11. The method of scrambling a packetized digital data
10 stream according to claim 10, wherein:

 said data packet stream is an MPEG-2 digital data stream.

12. The method of scrambling a packetized digital data stream according to claim 10, wherein said data packet stream comprises:

15 compressed video data.

13. The method of scrambling a packetized digital data stream according to claim 10, wherein said data packet stream comprises:

 compressed audio data.

20 14. The method of scrambling a packetized digital data stream according to claim 10, wherein said data packet stream comprises:
 compressed video data and compressed audio data.

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15. A method of descrambling a packetized digital data stream, comprising:

receiving a data packet stream comprising a plurality of data packets; and

5 descrambling every nth one of said plurality of data packets, where n is an integer greater than 1, leaving remaining ones of said plurality of data packets as received.

16. The method for descrambling a packetized digital data
10 stream according to claim 15, wherein said packetized digital data stream comprises:

MPEG-2 digital data.

17. Apparatus for scrambling a packetized digital data
15 stream, comprising:

means for producing a data packet stream comprising a plurality of data packets; and

20 means for scrambling a first portion of a data payload of at least some of said plurality of data packets within said data packet stream without scrambling a header of said at least some of said plurality of data packets.

18. The apparatus for scrambling a packetized digital data stream according to claim 17, wherein said data packet stream comprises:

25 an MPEG-2 digital data stream.

19. Apparatus for scrambling a packetized digital data stream, comprising:

means for producing a data packet stream comprising a plurality of data packets; and

5 means for scrambling every nth one of said plurality of data packets, where n is an integer greater than 1, leaving remaining ones of said plurality of data packets unscrambled.

20. The apparatus for scrambling a packetized digital data
10 stream according to claim 19, wherein said data packet stream comprises:
an MPEG-2 digital data stream.

21. Apparatus for descrambling a packetized digital data stream, comprising:

15 means for receiving a data packet stream comprising a plurality of data packets; and

means for descrambling every nth one of said plurality of data packets, where n is an integer greater than 1, leaving remaining ones of said plurality of data packets as received.

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22. The apparatus for descrambling a packetized digital data stream according to claim 21, wherein said data packet stream comprises:
an MPEG-2 digital data stream.

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